

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT SEATTLE

KIMBERLY BOTTOMS, on behalf of  
herself and all others similarly situated,  
  
Plaintiff,

v.

BLOCK, INC. (f/k/a/ SQUARE, INC.)  
d/b/a CASH APP,

CASE NO. C23-1969 MJP

ORDER GRANTING STIPULATED  
PROTECTIVE ORDER

Plaintiff Kimberly Bottoms and Defendant Block, Inc., by and through their undersigned counsel, respectfully move for entry of the following [Proposed] Stipulated Protective Order, to expedite and facilitate the production of confidential, proprietary, or private information for which special protection from public disclosure and from use for any purpose other than prosecuting and defending this litigation would be warranted, pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(c). Under LCR 26(c)(2), the parties began with the District's Model Protective Order, and have identified departures from the model in a redlined copy, attached as Exhibit 1.

**I. STIPULATION**

**1. PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS**

Discovery in this action is likely to involve production of confidential, proprietary, or private information for which special protection may be warranted. The parties acknowledge that this agreement is consistent with LCR 26(c). It does not confer blanket protection on all disclosures or responses to discovery; the protection it affords from public disclosure and use extends only to the limited information or items that are entitled to confidential treatment under applicable legal principles, and it does not presumptively entitle parties to file confidential information under seal.

2. “CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL” AND “ATTORNEY’S EYES ONLY MATERIAL”

“Confidential Material” shall include the following information, documents, and tangible things produced or otherwise exchanged: (1) personal and private information regarding Plaintiff, potential class members, and Defendant’s users, including current and former street addresses for natural persons, social security numbers, telephone numbers, email addresses, dates of birth, driver’s license numbers, account numbers, maiden names, and passwords; and (2) confidential business and financial information.

“Attorney’s Eyes Only Material” may include information, documents, and tangible things produced or otherwise exchanged that fall within Confidential Material the nature of which is so highly confidential that the designating party in good faith believes that it risks competitive or personal harm or injury through that material’s disclosure.

Confidential Material and Attorney’s Eyes Only Material are “Protected Material.”

3. SCOPE

The protections conferred by this agreement cover not only Protected Material (as defined above), but also (1) any information copied or extracted from such material; (2) all copies, excerpts, summaries, or compilations of such material; and (3) any testimony, conversations, or presentations by parties or their counsel that might reveal such material.

However, the protections conferred by this agreement do not cover information that (a) is in the public domain or becomes part of the public domain through trial or otherwise; (b) any

1 non-producing party owns or lawfully possesses or obtains lawfully and properly through its own  
 2 investigation or other means (i.e., not from the producing party); or (c) is produced without a  
 3 confidentiality designation, except as otherwise provided in this agreement (*see, e.g.*, Section 5.3  
 4 below) or as otherwise stipulated or ordered.

5 4. ACCESS TO AND USE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

6 4.1 Basic Principles. A receiving party may use Protected Material that is disclosed or  
 7 produced by another party or by a non-party in connection with this case only for prosecuting,  
 8 defending, or attempting to settle this litigation. Protected Material may be disclosed only to the  
 9 categories of persons and under the conditions described in this agreement. Protected Material  
 10 must be stored and maintained by a receiving party at a location and in a secure manner that  
 ensures that access is limited to the persons authorized under this agreement.

11 4.2 Disclosure of Protected Material. Unless otherwise ordered by the Court or  
 12 permitted in writing by the designating party, a receiving party may disclose any Confidential  
 13 Material or Attorney's Eyes Only Material only to:

14 (a) Plaintiff and Defendant, including their officers, directors, and employees  
 15 (including in-house counsel) to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation,  
 16 unless (except as to in house counsel) particular information, documents or materials are  
 produced for Attorney's Eyes Only and are so designated;

17 (b) the receiving party's counsel of record in this action, as well as employees  
 18 of counsel to whom it is reasonably necessary to disclose the information for this litigation;

19 (c) experts and consultants to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for  
 20 this litigation and who have signed the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound"  
 (Exhibit A);

21 (d) the Court, court personnel, and court reporters and their staff, including  
 22 any court reporter, videographer reporting or third party who is necessary to resolve a  
 23 technological issue during a deposition that court reporters, videographers, and their staff are  
 24 unable to resolve;

(e) copy or imaging services or e-discovery vendors retained by counsel to assist in the duplication, storage or analysis of Protected Material, provided that counsel for the party retaining the copy or imaging service instructs the service not to disclose any Protected Material to third parties and to immediately return or destroy all originals and copies of any Protected Material;

(f) during their depositions or while preparing with their counsel for their depositions, witnesses in the action to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A), unless otherwise bound by this agreement, agreed by the designating party, or ordered by the Court. Pages of transcribed deposition testimony or exhibits to depositions that reveal Confidential Material or Attorney’s Eyes Only Material must be separately bound in any hard copy transcript and separately compiled in any electronic transcript by the court reporter and may not be disclosed to anyone except as permitted under this agreement;

(g) mediators or settlement officers, and their supporting personnel, hired or appointed to address any issue(s) in the litigation;

(h) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a custodian or other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information;

(i) professional jury or trial consultants, mock jurors, and professional vendors to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation and who have signed the “Acknowledgement and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

(j) other persons by written agreement of the designating party.

4.3 Filing Protected Material. Before filing confidential material or discussing or referencing such material in court filings, the filing party shall confer with the designating party, in accordance with Local Civil Rule 5(g)(3)(A), to determine whether the designating party will remove the confidential designation, whether the document can be redacted, or whether a motion to seal or stipulation and proposed order is warranted. During the meet and confer process, the designating party must identify the basis for sealing the specific confidential information at issue,

1 and the filing party shall include this basis in its motion to seal, along with any objection to  
 2 sealing the information at issue. Local Civil Rule 5(g) sets forth the procedures that must be  
 3 followed and the standards that will be applied when a party seeks permission from the court to  
 4 file material under seal. A party who seeks to maintain the confidentiality of its information must  
 5 satisfy the requirements of Local Civil Rule 5(g)(3)(B), even if it is not the party filing the  
 6 motion to seal. The designating party must file its own briefs and/or declarations in response to  
 7 the filing party's motion to seal to state the reasons for keeping the designating party's Protected  
 8 Material under seal, keeping in mind that a party who seeks to maintain the confidentiality of its  
 9 information must satisfy the "good cause" or "compelling reasons" requirements of *Kamakana v.*  
 10 *City & County of Honolulu*, 447 F.3d 1172, 1180 (9th Cir. 2006), and that failure to satisfy this  
 11 requirement will result in the motion to seal being denied, in accordance with the strong  
 presumption of public access to the Court's files.

## 12 5. DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL

13 5.1 Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for Protection. Each party  
 14 or non-party that designates information or items for protection under this agreement must take  
 15 care to limit any such designation to specific material that qualifies under the appropriate  
 16 standards. The designating party must designate for protection only those materials, documents,  
 17 items, or oral or written communications that qualify, so that other materials, documents, items,  
 18 or communications for which protection is not warranted are not swept unjustifiably within the  
 ambit of this agreement.

19 Mass, indiscriminate, or routinized designations are prohibited. For example, if a  
 20 database or information structure falls within the scope of this Agreement, the Protected Material  
 21 designation applies only to the proprietary structure and/or schema of the database or  
 22 informational structure. A party who would like to designate the underlying data as Protected  
 23 Material must do so independently from the proprietary structure and/or schema. Designations  
 24 that are shown to be clearly unjustified or that have been made for an improper purpose (e.g., to  
 unnecessarily encumber or delay the case development process or to impose unnecessary

1 expenses and burdens on other parties) expose the designating party to sanctions.

2 If it comes to a designating party's attention that information or items that it designated  
3 for protection do not qualify for protection, the designating party must promptly notify all other  
4 parties that it is withdrawing the mistaken designation and, if necessary, reproduce any materials  
5 so that they reflect the corrected designation.

6 5.2 Manner and Timing of Designations. Except as otherwise provided in this  
7 agreement (*see, e.g.*, Section 5.3 below), or as otherwise stipulated or ordered, disclosure of  
8 discovery material that qualifies for protection under this agreement must be clearly so  
designated before or when the material is disclosed or produced.

9 (a) Information in documentary form (e.g., paper or electronic documents and  
10 deposition exhibits, but excluding transcripts of depositions or other pretrial or trial  
11 proceedings): the designating party must affix the word "CONFIDENTIAL" or  
12 "CONFIDENTIAL—ATTORNEY'S EYES ONLY" on each page of the document if feasible.

13 (b) Testimony given in deposition or in other pretrial proceedings: the parties  
14 and any participating non-parties may identify on the record, during the deposition or other  
15 pretrial proceeding, all protected testimony, without prejudice to their right to so designate other  
16 testimony after reviewing the transcript. Any party or non-party may, within fifteen (15) days  
17 after receiving the transcript of the deposition or other pretrial proceeding, designate portions of  
18 the transcript, or exhibits thereto, as Protected Material under this agreement. Until the expiration  
19 of the 15-day period for designation, any deposition transcript shall be treated as if it had been  
20 designated "CONFIDENTIAL—ATTORNEY'S EYES ONLY" in its entirety, unless otherwise  
agreed. Entire deposition transcripts should rarely, if ever, be designated as Protected Material.

21 If a party or non-party desires to protect Protected Material at trial, the issue should be  
addressed during the pre-trial conference.

22 (c) Other tangible items: the producing party must affix in a prominent place  
23 on the exterior of the container or containers in which the information or item is stored  
24 "CONFIDENTIAL," "CONFIDENTIAL—ATTORNEY'S EYES ONLY," or otherwise clearly

1 communicate to the receiving party the confidentiality designation. If only a portion or portions  
2 of the information or item warrant protection, the producing party, to the extent practicable, shall  
3 identify the protected portion(s).

4 5.3 Inadvertent Failures to Designate. If timely corrected, an inadvertent failure to  
5 designate qualified information, documents, or items does not, standing alone, waive the  
6 designating party's right to secure protection under this agreement for such material. Upon  
7 timely correction of a designation, the receiving party must make reasonable efforts to ensure  
8 that the material is treated in accordance with the provisions of this agreement.

## 9 6. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS

10 6.1 Timing of Challenges. Any party or non-party may challenge a designation of  
11 confidentiality at any time. Unless a prompt challenge to a designating party's confidentiality  
12 designation is necessary to avoid foreseeable, substantial unfairness, unnecessary economic  
13 burdens, or a significant disruption or delay of the litigation, a party does not waive its right to  
14 challenge a confidentiality designation by electing not to mount a challenge promptly after the  
15 original designation is disclosed.

16 6.2 Meet and Confer. The parties must make every attempt to resolve any dispute  
17 regarding confidential designations without Court involvement. Any motion regarding  
18 confidential designations or for a protective order must include a certification, in a declaration or  
19 affidavit, that the movant has engaged in a good faith meet and confer conference with other  
20 affected parties in an effort to resolve the dispute without Court action. The certification must list  
21 the date, manner, and participants to the conference. A good faith effort to confer requires a face-  
22 to-face meeting, videoconference, or a telephone conference.

23 6.3 Judicial Intervention. If the parties cannot resolve a challenge without Court  
24 intervention, the designating party should follow the Court's procedures regarding discovery  
disputes, including if necessary by filing and serving a motion to retain confidentiality under  
Local Civil Rule 7 (and in compliance with Local Civil Rule 5(g), if applicable). The burden of  
persuasion in any such motion shall be on the designating party. Frivolous challenges, and those

made for an improper purpose (e.g., to harass or impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) may expose the challenging party to sanctions. All parties shall continue to maintain the material in question as confidential until the Court rules on the challenge.

7. PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED PRODUCED IN OTHER LITIGATION OR PROCEEDINGS

If a party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation, regulatory, or other proceedings that compels disclosure of any Protected Material that party must:

(a) promptly notify the designating party in writing and include a copy of the subpoena or court order;

(b) promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order to issue in the other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the subpoena or order is subject to this agreement. Such notification shall include a copy of this agreement; and

(c) cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be pursued by the designating party whose Protected Material may be affected.

8. A NON-PARTY'S CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL SOUGHT TO BE PRODUCED IN THIS LITIGATION

The terms of this Order are applicable to information produced by a non-party in this action and designated as "CONFIDENTIAL." Such information produced by non-parties in connection with this litigation is protected by the remedies and relief provided by this Order. Nothing in these provisions should be construed as prohibiting a non-party from seeking additional protections.

In the event that a party is required, by a valid discovery request, to produce a non-party's confidential information in its possession, and the party is subject to an agreement with the non-party not to produce the non-party's confidential information, then the party shall:

(a) promptly notify in writing the requesting party and the non-party that some or all of the information requested is subject to a confidentiality agreement with a non-party;



1 (b) promptly provide the non-party with a copy of the Stipulated Protective Order in  
 2 this litigation, the relevant discovery request(s), and a reasonably specific description of the  
 3 information requested; and

4 (c) make the information requested available for inspection by the non-party.

5 If the non-party fails to object or seek a protective order from this court within fourteen  
 6 days of receiving the notice and accompanying information, the receiving party may produce the  
 7 non-party's confidential information responsive to the discovery request. If the non-party timely  
 8 seeks a protective order, the receiving party shall not produce any information in its possession  
 9 or control that is subject to the confidentiality agreement with the non-party before a  
 10 determination by the court. Absent a court order to the contrary, the non-party shall bear the  
 burden and expense of seeking protection in this court of its Confidential Material.

11 In the event that a discovery request asks a party to produce a non-party's confidential  
 12 information in its possession, that was produced to the party pursuant to a protective order in  
 13 another case, then the responding party shall promptly notify in writing the requesting party and  
 14 the non-party that some or all of the information requested is subject to a protective order in  
 15 another case. The terms of the protective order in the other case shall control as to the discovery  
 16 request directed at the party. However, nothing herein shall prohibit the requesting party in this  
 17 litigation from issuing a subpoena to the non-party. As to any subpoena issued to a non-party,  
 this Order, and not any order entered in another matter shall control.

#### 18 9. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

19 If a receiving party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, Protected Material has been  
 20 disclosed to any person or in any circumstance not authorized under this agreement by the  
 21 receiving party's action or inaction, the receiving party must immediately (a) notify in writing  
 22 the designating party of the unauthorized disclosures, (b) use its best efforts to retrieve all  
 23 unauthorized copies of the Protected Material, (c) inform the person or persons to whom  
 24 unauthorized disclosures were made of all the terms of this agreement, and (d) request that such  
 person or persons execute the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" that is attached

hereto as Exhibit A.

10. INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR OTHERWISE PROTECTED MATERIAL

When a producing party gives notice to receiving parties that certain inadvertently produced material is subject to a claim of privilege or other protection, the obligations of the receiving parties are those set forth in Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(5)(B). This provision is not intended to modify whatever procedure may be established in an e-discovery order or agreement that provides for production without prior privilege review. The parties agree to the entry of a non-waiver order under Fed. R. Evid. 502(d) as set forth herein.

11. NON-TERMINATION AND RETURN OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

Within 60 days after the termination of this action, including all appeals, each receiving party must return to the producing party or destroy all Protected Material, including all copies, extracts, and summaries thereof.

Notwithstanding this provision, counsel are entitled to retain one archival copy of all documents filed with the court, trial, deposition, and hearing transcripts, correspondence, deposition and trial exhibits, expert reports, attorney work product, and consultant and expert work product, even if such materials contain Protected Material.

The confidentiality obligations imposed by this agreement shall remain in effect until a designating party agrees otherwise in writing or a court orders otherwise.

IT IS SO STIPULATED, THROUGH COUNSEL OF RECORD.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED AND DATED this 8th day of April, 2024.

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**II. ORDER**

PURSUANT TO STIPULATION, IT IS SO ORDERED.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that pursuant to Fed. R. Evid. 502(d), the production of any documents, electronically stored information (ESI) or information, whether inadvertent or otherwise, in this proceeding shall not, for the purposes of this proceeding or any other federal or state proceeding, constitute a waiver by the producing party of any privilege applicable to those documents, including the attorney-client privilege, attorney work-product protection, or any other privilege or protection recognized by law. This Order shall be interpreted to provide the maximum protection allowed by Fed. R. Evid. 502(d). The provisions of Fed. R. Evid. 502(b) do not apply. Nothing contained herein is intended to or shall serve to limit a party's right to conduct a review of documents, ESI or information (including metadata) for relevance, responsiveness and/or segregation of privileged and/or protected information before production. Information produced in discovery that is protected as privileged or work product shall be immediately returned to the producing party.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

The clerk is ordered to provide copies of this order to all counsel.

Dated April 11, 2024.



Marsha J. Pechman  
United States Senior District Judge

EXHIBIT A

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND

I, \_\_\_\_\_, [print or type full name], of  
\_\_\_\_\_ [print or type full address], declare under penalty of perjury that I  
have read in its entirety and understand the Stipulated Protective Order that was issued by the  
United States District Court for the Western District of Washington on [date] in the case of  
*Bottoms v. Block, Inc.*, No. 2:23-cv-01969-MJP. I agree to comply with and to be bound by all  
the terms of this Stipulated Protective Order and I understand and acknowledge that failure to so  
comply could expose me to sanctions and punishment in the nature of contempt. I solemnly  
promise that I will not disclose in any manner any information or item that is subject to this  
Stipulated Protective Order to any person or entity except in strict compliance with the  
provisions of this Order.

I further agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the  
Western District of Washington for the purpose of enforcing the terms of this Stipulated  
Protective Order, even if such enforcement proceedings occur after termination of this action.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

City and State where sworn and signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_